

President's Corner

New Award, New Initiative

by Paul Zucker

I am pleased to announce that MOS has been named the recipient of the *first* annual award of the Erik A. T. Blom memorial fund by *Bird Watcher's Digest*. This fund, which was announced in the January-February issue, was established by the Blom family and the magazine with the goal of honoring "the memory of Rick Blom and his love for the written word by making a modest annual award to a deserving bird club." As many of you know, Rick Blom was the coordinator of our first statewide Breeding Bird Atlas. In addition, he was a regular contributor to *Bird Watcher's Digest*. I am told to expect a check of \$250, which will be used in support of our current Breeding Bird Atlas.

I am happy to send a special thank you to Bill Thompson III, the editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*. He was kind enough to alert me to the existence of this award, and he invited me to send a letter of application (where I stressed Rick's involvement with our previous Atlas and our efforts on the new Atlas). Naturally, it is very gratifying to see our efforts recognized in this way before a national audience. Bill, as it turns out, is no stranger to MOS. Before starting *Bird Watcher's Digest*, he lived in Baltimore and belonged to our Baltimore chapter.

The second item I have to report is the progress on our new electronic bulletin board, **Call Notes**. During our planning retreat over a year ago, concern was

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The Maryland Yellowthroat

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

MARCH/APRIL 2004

VOL. 24, NO. 2

ATLAS FUND-RAISING, CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING

Spring is coming and so are the birds! Nests are being built, male birds are donning their finest plumage, and several MOS chapters are fashioning Earth Day (and other-day) events to raise money and awareness for the MD/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

*The **Frederick County Chapter** is gearing up for its biggest fundraising event of the year—Big Sit 2004! On April 24, devoted Frederick birders of all abilities will sit in a 17-foot-diameter circle and count all the birds they can see or hear. With ample food rations, rain gear, binoculars, scopes, field guides, and more, we'll begin an adventure fueled by the primal urge to compete with fellow birders on behalf of birds! Our team will be at Lilypons from before dawn to dusk, and the money we raise will go to the MD/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Lilypons is hosting other activities, workshops, bird walks, a birding trail dedication, and entertainment. You can volunteer to help with the activities or you can make a pledge for each species of bird identified by our team. If you want to sponsor Frederick (*say yes*), just mail your per-species pledge to Linda Keller, 3314 Jefferson Pike, Jefferson, MD 21755, before April 15 (*say yes*). Please know that any amount you pledge will be appreciated! For further information, call Linda at 301-834-6977.

*Howard County will be holding an "Earth Day Extravaganza" on April 24. The event will take place at Middle Patuxent Environmental Area in Columbia. The event kicks off with a bird walk at 8:30 AM at the Trotter Rd. parking lot. Folks wishing to spend the day should bring a lunch. The bird walk will run until about noon and be followed by a break for lunch. A wildflower/butterfly walk will run from 1:00 PM until about 2:30. Call Kurt Schwarz (410-461-1643) for more information.

*On April 24 the **Anne Arundel Bird Club** will sponsor a table and display at the Quiet Waters Park Earth Day Celebration. It will feature a bulletin board and hand-outs describing the Atlas project. For information, call Al Haury at 410-923-0881.

*On April 24, the **Montgomery Bird Club** will conduct a Big Sit at Black Hill Regional Park. Like Frederick, Montgomery will collect pledges for all the birds seen and heard from within a 17-foot circle, funds to go to the Atlas. To pledge, contact Rick Sussman, warblerick@aol.com.

*On May 2, the **Montgomery Bird Club** will sponsor a booth at the Audubon Naturalist Society's annual spring fair in Chevy Chase. Manning the booth will be Montgomery County Atlas Coordinator Jim Green and DC Atlas Coordinator Rob Hilton.

Marcia Balestri
301-473-5098

President's Corner (*continued from page 1*)

expressed over the difficulties we had with our internal communications. Committees found it hard to arrange meetings or to conduct business between meetings, and many chapters did not know all that was going on at the state level. The idea of an electronic bulletin board for MOS business and internal communications (relating to policy and issues, not for reporting bird sightings) appeared to be very attractive. I asked Eric Sprague and Janet Millenson to investigate the situation and to work with Fran Saunders about having it hosted along with our website.

Subsequently, MOS purchased a highly recommended software package called Discus Pro for this purpose. At the December board meeting, Janet reported that a meeting of technical experts in MOS addressed the issues of the structure of the bulletin board and its implementation. The bulletin board will be segmented into various discussion groups. One group will be open to all MOS members. Other tiers will be reserved for particular committees and projects.

In order to make all this work, the bulletin board needs a monitor to keep track of access lists and remove outdated material. Fortunately, during the board meeting Peter Mann of Kent County volunteered to take on this task. Now we are poised for a trial implementation, putting up the bulletin board and activating a couple of the discussion groups. I am optimistic that, once fully operational, this bulletin board will vastly improve the society's internal communications.

THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT
Newsletter of the Maryland
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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Copy may be mailed or e-mailed to Lydia Schindler by April 1, 2004 for the May/June issue.



DNR Reports... by Glen Therres

Short of seeing a goshawk or some other local specialty, the sight of a black bear while birding afield in Western Maryland may prove the best find of the outing. Though black bears were once scarce in the state, their numbers have increased in the past few decades to more than 250 individuals. The trend is expected to continue, so your chances of seeing one continue to get better.

Maryland's black bears are part of an expanding population in the central Appalachian region. The bear population in Pennsylvania is estimated at more than 13,000 individuals, while West Virginia has 12,000 to 15,000 bears. Virginia's numbers are increasing as well.

With the increasing bear population have come more bear-people conflicts. These take the form of bears damaging agricultural crops, occasionally killing livestock, destroying bee hives, raiding garbage cans, and demolishing bird feeders. There has also been an increase in automobile collisions. In 2003, we recorded 37 bears killed by vehicles on Maryland roads. Though the citizens of Western Maryland are concerned about safety and the damage the bears can cause, they have accepted bears as a way of life.

In 1992, DNR developed a 10-year plan to address black bear management in Maryland. In the intervening years, the bear population has not only increased substantially, it has also spread eastward. Nuisance problems have increased, and public attitudes toward bears continue to evolve. In 2002, a Black Bear Task Force was assembled to provide guidance to DNR in developing the next 10-year bear management plan. The task force included members of the public representing various points of view.

Based on the findings of this task force and our experiences with black bears over the last decade, DNR is developing a new black bear management plan. A draft is available on the DNR webpage at www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/bbmgtplan2004.html. Though the public comment period ended on February 13, we are still interested in your thoughts as birdwatchers. Send your comments to me at gtherres@dnr.state.md.us.

The draft plan discusses the status of our black bear population, bear interactions with people in Maryland, what DNR has been doing to reduce these conflicts, and the management options we are considering. These options include passive (do nothing) management, habitat management, regulated hunting, and immunocontraception/sterilization.

Over the years, DNR has developed information and educational materials. We have trapped and transferred problem bears. We have employed numerous avoidance and exclusion techniques. We have a team of employees trained to deal with bear-people conflicts. Through a voluntary Bear Conservation Stamp program, we have compensated farmers for agricultural damage caused by bears (though not 100%). We have even killed a few chronically problematic bears.

We are exploring other alternatives, including regulated hunting. The draft plan explains each of the options under consideration. I encourage you to read it and provide your comments. This is a very challenging wildlife resource to manage. The more input we get from conservation-minded folks like you, the better informed we will be when we make the ultimate decision for managing Maryland's black bear population over the next 10 years.

CONFERENCE 2004

JUNE 11-13 • WASHINGTON COLLEGE, CHESTERTOWN

Did you know that you can expect a Grasshopper Sparrow in your mailbox some time in March? This delightful bird, drawn by *Nancy Martin* of the hosting Kent Bird Club, adorns the registration brochure for the June conference. Lots of exciting things are in the works for this annual meeting—so register, come, and enjoy.

***Walter Ellison** is arranging field trips to some wonderful places in Kent, Cecil, Caroline, and Queen Anne's Counties. In addition to public areas, several trips will explore outstanding private estates in Kent County. Walter needs field trip leaders; please contact him if you can help (410-778-9568 or rossgull@crosslink.net).

***Wayne Bell** and **Martha Schaum** of Washington College's Center for the Environment and Society will present a



workshop showing how teachers can use birds to teach biodiversity. The workshop includes a free CD-ROM of teaching resources and information, "Landscapes, Birds, and People."

***Bonnie Ott** will again give her sparrow field trip/workshop. **Walter Ellison** will lead in-the-field atlasing tutorials. And, of course, there's the butterfly field trip led by **Pat and Clay Sutton**.

* The Artists' Exhibit, featuring local and not-so-local talent, is always a delightful room to visit. If you have artists to recommend, contact **Dale Johnson** at 410-867-7743 or ckadj@juno.com.

Come to Chestertown. And check out those Grasshopper Sparrows.

Janet Shields

301-416-7109 • janetbill@prodigy.net

CONFERENCE: CALL FOR POSTERS

Again this year, the MOS Research Committee will sponsor poster presentations at our annual conference. The posters are displayed during the Wine and Cheese Social on Saturday evening, and poster presenters are encouraged to stand near their posters at that time to answer questions on their research. If you would like to share the results of any research on the natural history of Maryland bird life, please contact **Gwen Brewer** (Chair) as soon as possible by e-mail at glbrewer@comcast.net, or by phone at 301-843-3524.

If you have data to summarize and present from banding activities, hawk watches, or even small research projects, please take advantage of this opportunity to share your results with other MOS members! This event has been well-attended in the past, and both conference attendees and the presenters have enjoyed this chance to exchange ideas about birds.

ATLAS PLEDGING

The intrepid **George Jett**, newly retired, is dedicating his Big Year in Charles County to the Atlas effort. George has issued a challenge, recruiting sponsors to donate a specific amount per species that he identifies in Charles County in 2004. He had topped 100 before January was out, on his way toward a possible 250. To pledge, contact George at 301-843-3524 or gmjett@comcast.net.

World Series of Birding 2004, Cape May, NJ, May 15. The MOS team, the Holy Order of Loggerhead Shrikes, will be raising funds for both the Atlas project and for Pronatura Veracruz. (During the past five years, the Shrikes, sponsored by the Montgomery Bird Club, have raised more than \$10,000 for Pronatura.) Captain Don Simonson, John Hubbell, Gordon Gover, and Andy Rabin will compete in the Cape May County division. They hope to better their previous record of 156 species. To pledge, log on to www.holyshrikes.com.

Birds of Note

The Ocean City Christmas Count Dec. 28 witnessed an amazing flight of **redpolls**. Birds could be heard calling before first light at the Assateague Island bridge, and redpolls were seen—by almost half of the count's 38 observers—flying off the ocean into the beaches from about 7:30 AM until 9 AM, reports OC Count compiler Jay Sheppard. The final tally was 186 Common Redpolls and 2 Hoary Redpolls (new to the count). However, few birds were found anywhere after early afternoon or more than a mile or so from tidewater. Reports from up and down the Atlantic coast that day came from as far south as Pea Island, NC, and as far north as Nantucket Island, MA. "There were no reports of redpolls along the coast in the days before," Jay writes. "The birds just all appeared that morning." The Assateague experience raised hopes for a year of plentiful winter finches, but the weeks that followed saw only the occasional redpoll or siskin; in late January a flock of about 20 Evening Grosbeaks stopped by a yard in Hancock, Washington County.

THE SOUL OF A BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

BY WALTER ELLISON

Volunteers are the foundation, muscle, lifeblood, and heart of all breeding bird atlas projects. The biological atlas concept relies on the combined skills and efforts of an army of knowledgeable volunteers to survey a land area impossibly large for any small group of professional investigators, however well-trained and dedicated. The Maryland/D.C. Breeding Bird Atlas is a classic expression of how an alliance of like-minded people can generate a body of knowledge of greater worth and scale than any single person could ever hope to produce.

Most Maryland/D.C. Atlas volunteers work in the field, gathering bird reports as county coordinators, assigned block leaders, helpers in assigned blocks, or miniroute observers, or by reporting incidental sightings from their bird trips and general wanderings. Frequently volunteers will fulfill many of these roles in a single atlas season. Volunteers have also contributed to the project in a variety of other ways, including coordinating the activities of other observers, entering data, preparing atlas materials such as maps and block packets, generating publicity for the project, fundraising, and helping oversee project organization and policy.

As of January 2004, atlas birders have recorded data in 997 blocks, 77% of the total for Maryland and D.C. These range from single random encounters with birds in a block to blocks with totals in excess of 100 species and 55 nesting confirmations. Nearly 590 blocks have reports of 50 or more bird species, indicating the quality of volunteer work over the first two years of the atlas.

As project coordinator, I've established a database of atlas volunteers of all types. The current

database contains the names of 550 volunteers of all types. A list of atlas volunteers may be seen at the MOS Atlas web page at www.mdbirds.org/atlas/docs/workersjan04.doc.

As of late January, some 64,285 bird sightings were listed in the Maryland/D.C. Atlas database housed at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. These were linked to the names of 383 volunteers, for an average of 168 sightings per observer. A "sighting" consists of any report of a bird species an observer enters into the database within a given year's field card. Sightings include regular species entry when a volunteer starts an online atlas field card, upgrades to a field card including additions to quarterblocks (where required), and any incidental sightings.

I have a listing of atlas observers broken down by number of sightings from the Patuxent atlas database. The following volunteers have contributed 400 or more sightings to the database.

Chandler Robbins	3954
Lynn Davidson	3171
Mark Hoffman	2951
Walter Ellison	2072
Sue Ricciardi	1212
Fred and Jane Fallon	1076
Bob Ringler	1050
Deanna Dawson	1049
Fran Pope	1048
Matt Hafner	1020
Patty Craig	897
Kyle Rambo	853
Stan Arnold	746
David Smith	745
Julie Maynard	733
Glen Lovelace	708
Nancy Martin	630
Charles Vaughn	608
Connie Skipper	538
Jeff Shenot	506
Arlene Ripley	500
Sue Hamilton	490



James McCann	483
Glenn Therres	455
Sam Dyke	453
George Jett	429
Barbara Dowell	425
Dotty Mumford	413

To make the list, an observer had to work on four or more assigned blocks and be alert to the breeding behavior of birds wherever and whenever they banded during the peak atlas season from late May to early August. Chan works all over the state, has done a lot of incidental field cards, and has had a large number of block assignments each year. Lynn Davidson (Dorchester) and Mark Hoffman (Worcester) are doing their counties almost single-handedly and have done two annual field cards apiece for a great many blocks. If you do a lot of blocks, and have worked both years, the sightings can really add up.

The observer list illustrates a number of points. First, the county coordinators have invested a great deal of time and effort in field work and data entry. Over two-fifths of the 400 Club are among our 30 county coordinators. The second, very exciting fact is that a great number of selfless, enthusiastic and focused birders have submitted records from their blocks and contributed many incidental records.

My hat's off to the volunteers who are making this project a success. I am impressed with their efforts, because I know what it takes to find all those birds and put them into the online database. Over the next three years we must get into the more than 290 blocks that still lack data, survey for night birds and marsh dwellers to fairly represent them on the state map, and make sure every block is as well-covered as possible. We can do it; the effort thus far says this is so.

THEY'RE COMING! THEY'RE COMING!

Baltimore boasts perhaps 15 migration roosts for Chimney Swifts, but the Hampden chimneys are the champs, with the nation's third highest recorded count last year. Join the **Baltimore Bird Club (BBC)** trip to see the Hampden Chimney Swifts on Sunday, April 25, at 7:15 PM. (Directions below.) **Bryce Butler, Joan Cwi, Alice and David Nelson, and Carol Schreter**, along with many other BBC members, form the BBC Swift Watch Team, which monitors the swifts at dusk, spring and fall. Alice Nelson sends their reports to a migration researcher at William and Mary College in Virginia (see www.SwiftWatch.org).

Last fall, bird rehabilitators Marc Payne and Diane Winn of Avian Haven in Freedom, Maine, had five young, hand-raised Chimney Swifts ready for release, but in September there were no more swifts in Maine. They learned about Baltimore's Hampden chimneys and traveled 750 miles to allow these five young swifts to join a flock. To Carol Schreter, the October 4 release was a great opportunity to actually hold a Chimney Swift. The bird was wiggling like a worm, excited by being out of that cage and hearing other swifts overhead.

When the five were ready to be released, about 20 swifts were visible in the area. Within a minute or two of the first release, 250 swifts converged to meet or greet the newcomers, with the numbers gradually increasing to 1,000. From 6:00 to 6:30, every five to ten minutes one or two young swifts would buzz the rehabilitators and observers, flying perhaps 10 feet overhead, as they stood in the center of a large parking lot. "I've never seen swifts fly so low overhead," Carol says. "This was certainly the young'uns, coming to see Papa." About 7:00 PM the whole flock descended into the chimney.

To reach the Hampden chimneys: The Swift Watch Team is happy to welcome others to join them at the Swift Watch. Observation spots are the Mill Center at 3000 Chestnut St and the Freestate Bookbindery at 3110 Elm Ave, Hampden (Baltimore). Plan to arrive a half hour before sunset and stay until a half hour after sunset. Swifts enter earlier on cloudy or cool evenings. Directions: Take I-83 exit Cold Spring Lane, East. Go one quarter mile to light at Falls Rd, turn right (south), and go 1.2 miles. At 36th St, follow left lane and sign "Falls Rd." At stop sign, turn left, one short block uphill. Take first possible right, a hairpin turn, onto Falls Cliff Rd to end. Follow arrow pointing left around the curve to end. Right onto Elm St. First left onto Mill St. First left into Mill Center parking lot. From here, the Mill Center chimney is below you and the Bookbindery chimney is above and behind you.

—Martha Waugh

RESEARCH GRANT DEADLINE JUNE 1

The Maryland Ornithological Society announces the availability of research grants for ornithological research to be conducted in the state of Maryland. Grants are generally limited to amounts less than \$2,000.

If the research is to be done at or near one of the MOS sanctuaries, the society may be able to provide accommodations at a nominal cost. Proposals are reviewed twice annually, with deadlines of **December 1** and **June 1** and award notification in approximately eight weeks. For application guidelines and further information write or e-mail: **Gwen Brewer**, MOS Research Committee, 9505 Bland St., Waldorf, MD 20603 (gbrewer@comcast.net)



In the Scope: Sam Dyke

Visualizing, in an empty museum gallery, just where and how to place and display art objects would be a daunting task for many of us. To Sam Dyke, who volunteers as

Consulting Curator of Salisbury University's Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, it's all in a day's work. Assisted by many talented volunteers and staff, Sam has been planning Ward exhibits of paintings, decoys, and American crafts for nearly 30 years.

In addition to his activities at the museum, Sam serves as president of the Tri-County Bird Club, an MOS chapter that draws members from the counties of Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset. He coordinates the club's Salisbury Christmas Bird Count and the May Count, leads several field trips for the club each year, and delights club members with selected slide presentations of his birding trips to places such as Churchill, Manitoba. Sam is an active member of The Nature Conservancy and leads several trips for that organization, too. He is also responsible for a Breeding Bird Survey in Worcester County.

Sam's interest in birds began at a very early age, thanks to a number of kind adults who took him on birding trips to local and distant areas of the mid-Atlantic region. Those trips during his formative years kindled young Sam's curiosity and fascination about birds and enabled him to locate them and learn their basic identification.

Armed with degrees in forestry from Penn State and Yale, Sam moved to Maryland's Eastern Shore in 1957. His work managing timber lands took him into the field, and he grew intimately familiar with the terrain as well as the birds of the Delmarva Peninsula. He also developed an interest in the wooden decoys that replicated the real birds. Sam recognized the craftsmanship of the carvers, the simple way they could capture the essence of the birds, and he began to collect shorebird and waterfowl decoys.

In 1975, the Ward Museum was established at Salisbury University, allowing the large collection of Ward Brothers decoys, both functional and decorative, to be prominently displayed to the public. However, the museum wanted to build a greater collection of hunting decoys and decorative carvings. Into this environment entered volunteer Sam Dyke, who recognized the need for someone who could help interpret the museum's decoy collection. Over the years, he has also loaned some of his own pieces to museum exhibits.

Another of Sam's interests is the Delmarva Birding Weekend. The Weekend, which originated at the Ward Museum, has grown slowly over the years. Although it is now the cooperative effort of numerous organizations, it continues to focus on birding and natural history events, introducing local residents and visitors to unique areas of the Eastern Shore. Sam serves on the Delmarva Birding Weekend committee, where his advice and assistance on field trips and other birding activities has helped make it a popular event each April.

Now retired, Sam birds daily, and his favorite birding is on the Delmarva Peninsula. Occasionally, though, he heads farther afield to hone his identification skills. He was fortunate to be at Gambell, Saint Lawrence Island, Alaska, in late August 2002, for the discovery of the first recorded North American Willow Warbler.

Sam Dyke is well respected by Tri-County Bird Club members, Ward Museum staff and volunteers, and the many people in the area who have worked with him over the years. The next time you are in Salisbury, stop by and visit the Ward Museum. Who knows, you just might find Sam in one of the galleries planning a future exhibit!

—Betty Pitney,
Tri-County Bird Club



MOS Speaker, MOS Photographer Make Sports Illustrated

The January 19, 2004 issue of *Sports Illustrated* (SI) devotes eight pages to "A Fowl Obsession," excerpted from a just-published book by Mark Obmascik, *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession* (Free Press, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc.). Obmascik chronicles the Big Year efforts of Andy Komito, Al Levantin, and Maryland's own Greg Miller. MOS members will recall avidly following the intrepid Greg's exploits on the MDOsprey listserve throughout 1998. The following year, Greg treated us to a delightful "recounting" of his Big Year at the annual MOS conference. Shortly after, Greg moved back to his home state, Ohio.

Greg reports that Mark Obmascik's coverage of Columbine for the *Denver Post* won a Pulitzer Prize. Tired of so much negative news, he took a sabbatical to write a book. Obmascik is an outdoorsman and avid hiker and has an interest in birds as well. At the American Birding Association headquarters in Colorado Springs, he stumbled across the name of Sandy Komito, holder of the ABA area record set in 1998. Mark called Komito, who suggested that he contact Greg Miller. Greg told him that he, Sandy, and Al Levantin, also of Colorado, each broke 700 species in 1998. That conversation was the genesis of the book.

I asked Greg if he had seen Levantin or Komito since Obmascik finished the book. "Yes, I met Al Levantin in Texas this past spring at Neal's Lodges in the Hill Country. We were both after Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. He was on a tight schedule and I was leading a tour."

Now, about that photograph. The magazine attributes a photo of Greg on Attu to Anne Arundel Club member Phil Davis. However, the actual, unrecognized photographer of "Phil's" picture is Phil's wife, Barbara. Watch *SI* for future letters to the editor!

SI headlines the article, "Warning: Bird-watching is a brutal sport. If you think we're kidding, you'd better read this." If you want a fascinating birding saga, take their advice.

It's Spring Cleaning Time

Between now and the annual conference June 11-13 in Chestertown, Maryanne Dolan, chair of the Silent Auction, urges you to "start culling through your stuff" for that event. Last year, MOS earned \$3,000 from your treasures. The money goes to a local effort selected by the host chapter. "Think of how good you'll feel, thinning out those bookshelves and cupboards and helping MOS at the same time," Maryanne says. "And with all that new-found space, you'll be able to buy buy buy—at the conference. A win-win situation for all." If you want to ask Maryanne questions, volunteer to help, or warn her about how large your white elephant really is, email her at ABTrowbridge@msn.com.

Tri-County Meetings Feature Special Programs

Carol Broderick reports that the Tri-County Bird Club enjoyed a special treat two months in a row, thanks to video producers Michael Male and Judy Fieth. Carol reports, "In October we viewed their video, *Watching Sparrows*. In November they personally presented a DVD on the experiences and challenges they encountered while recording images as well as sounds throughout the country. All the obstacles they overcame, such as transporting heavy, cumbersome equipment, torrential rains, and sleeping outdoors were treated with great humor and unbridled enthusiasm. They maintain that the world of digital imagery is moving exceedingly fast, and they intend to remain on the cutting edge." Michael Male and Judy Fieth have

worked together as Blue Earth Films since 1980. Their programs have been broadcast in the U.S. by National Geographic, HBO, and PBS's *Nova* and *Nature*. They freelance for such BBC programs as *The Life of Birds*, *The Blue Planet*, and *Journey of Life*. Their website is www.birdfilms.com with a link for emails to them. Because they are freelancers and have to be on call, they limit the number of their speaking engagements and the time to the fall/winter season.

Montgomery Bird Club Members Do a "Big Pelagic"

In December, Gail Mackiernan and her husband, Barry Cooper, plus four friends from England, embarked on the Royal Princess for a 24-day cruise from Capetown to Valparaiso, Chile, via Tristan da Cunha, Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetlands, Falklands, Ushuaia, Punta Arenas and Puerto Montt. They enjoyed land birding at all the ports of call, plus four days birding in Chile before returning home in mid-January.

Gail writes, "Since this was a regular cruise ship on its first trip to Antarctic waters, it was a bit of an experiment for everyone. However, the extensive cruise track across the entire South Atlantic held the promise of great sea-birding. We were a little concerned whether such a large ship would provide the best platform for viewing, but we needn't have worried. It was perfect. Huge expanses of covered teak deck, stabilizers, etc. meant we could use our scopes in all weather conditions, even a 60-knot severe storm in the 'roaring 40's.' Many birds came in to 'draft' our stern, providing amazingly close views. We saw over 100 species of pelagic and coastal seabirds, including 11 species of albatross, 9 species of penguin, four prions, 16 species of petrel, all the diving petrels, etc.

"In each port we had arranged local guides to take us out to do targeted land-birding, and we managed to hook up with some great species such as Magellanic Plover and Diademed Sandpiper-Plover.

"The ship's crew was very helpful and tolerant, and our daily sightings were posted in the lobby. And on how many pelagics does someone come into your cabin in the evening, turn down the bedcovers, and leave chocolates on your pillow?"

Chapter Chattering

Birders like to flock together; they like to eat; and they maintain seasonal patterns and traditions. Opportunities for both flocking and eating seem to attract new birders and to help experienced birders communicate with each other. Many of these occasions are perfect times to recognize the contributions of individual members.

The **Anne Arundel Bird Club** has found that substituting a potluck/picnic for a regular monthly meeting in

June and September keeps up attendance in those months. Participation is even better when these events are held at the homes of members rather than at parks or bird observation sites.

The **Carroll Chapter** has two traditions. They warm up the winter hiatus with an annual holiday party in mid-January. The club provides grilled hamburgers and hotdogs supplemented by member contributions at an annual picnic in warmer weather.

The **Cecil Bird Club** hosts a famous "Hawk Watch bash" in December, for all the people involved in volunteering their time for the Turkey Point hawk watch from Labor Day through November. This reportedly raucous event is held in a local restaurant. In August they sponsored their "first Annual" Cecil Bird Club Picnic at Elk Neck State Park, to kick-start the fall season.

The **Frederick Chapter** also likes to get together to party in the winter. Their December program is a catered dinner usually held in a restaurant or church. This year they used space in the public library. Frederick also has an annual evening pot luck picnic at a local park on the Monocacy River in June.

The champion diners are the members of the **Harford Bird Club** who host three dinner meetings: November, March, and May. Their tasty meals are prepared and served by the ladies of the Churchville Presbyterian Church. But that's not all. They start their annual season each year with a picnic featuring "legendary roast beef" by members Tom Congersky and Randy Robertson, corn on the cob, and Jean Fry's famous Maryland crab soup. Potato salad, baked beans, watermelon, and cake are also on the menu. Members bring beverages and pay \$12 per adult and \$5 per child. Those who are able to walk after such a feast join in a traditional bird walk.

The **Montgomery Bird Club (MBC)** hosts an annual social, typically on the third Friday of March. This year, as for the past three years, it will be held at the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) Woodend Mansion. Usually about 100 members attend. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres are followed by dinner. After dinner, members show slides and digital photos of interesting birds they've seen during the year. This event is an opportunity to honor a member; last year

Lou DeMouy was the guest of honor and this year it will be Lydia Schindler.

Howard also provides an opportunity for members to share slides (or digital pictures) of birds and places they have seen in the past year after their traditional potluck dinner in March.

Tri-County begins the year in September with a picnic potluck at the Broderick's. For years it was a barbecue but, when the number attending exceeded 25, they switched to the new format. Everyone brings a bird-related story, favorite book, poem, trip report, etc.

Several clubs serve light refreshments at monthly meetings and encourage a social time, usually half an hour before the formal meeting begins. Some clubs use name-tags color coded to identify members and guests and to facilitate welcoming newcomers.

The **Talbot Bird Club** hosts Sunday morning walks that often feature breakfast at the home of a member. Talbot agrees with Anne Arundel that events in the homes of members are better attended. The club also sponsors a potluck in June, "celebrating a year of great birding" and planning for the fall.

Tally rallies are wonderfully warm and welcoming times for roosting together after a hard day's count with the added benefit of sampling each one's favorite potluck dishes. **Frederick, Harford, and Howard** are particularly strong on scheduling these events. These also seem to work better in private homes. The counts are opportunities to match new birders with more experienced counters and to introduce the fledglings to the chapter community.

Special events add sparkle to the year's calendar and sometimes funds for the budget. **Anne Arundel** sponsors an annual wildlife lecture, usually at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. This year the program committee landed Scott Weidensaul, author of more than two dozen books on natural history. His March 4 lecture will be based on his book, *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*.

Echo Wings: A Camp for Burgeoning Birders

Arlington Echo, the Anne Arundel Outdoor Education Center, is sponsoring a 6-day/5-night residential summer camp devoted to nature study, with a special emphasis on birdwatching. EchoWings, as the camp is known, will be open to students entering grades 5 through 9. The dates of the camp are July 6-11, 2004.

The camp's Director, **Larry Zoller**, is a member of MOS and the Anne Arundel Bird Club. He has been a science teacher and outdoor educator for 33 years.

Echo Wings is designed for young naturalists with a strong interest in exploring nature and bird watching. Campers will participate in early morning bird walks, canoe trips, and late night owl prowls; they'll learn to search for wildlife signs and develop their skills in wildlife identification as well as ecological investigation.

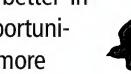
In addition to nature explorations, the students will have opportunities to develop a sense of environmental stewardship and participate in activities that have a positive impact on the environment.

Echo Wings is limited to 20 campers, selected on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost of the camp is \$350, and the deadline for applications is March 19. Application forms and more information are available on the web at <http://arlingtonecho.org>. If you have additional questions, you can contact Larry Zoller at 410-987-9354 or zbird49@aol.com.

Maryland Birdlife, 1945-1999

The full archives of *Maryland Birdlife* from 1945 through 1999 are available on a single, searchable CD-ROM. And to set your mind at ease, the CD comes with a sheet of simple instructions for getting started, plus a detailed help section on the CD itself.

Order your copy by sending John Malcolm a check for \$2.60 made out to MOS, indicate whether you need the PC version or the Macintosh version, and include your mailing address. John is at 10250 Kindly Ct, Montgomery Village, MD 20886. You can reach John at smudgie@comcast.net or 301-977-5788.



MINUTES, MOS BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 6, 2003

President: Paul Zucker
Vice President: Janet Millenson
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Secretary: Janet Shields
Past President: Karen Morley

Atlas: Jane Coskren
Awards: John Malcolm
Conference: Janet Shields
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarship: Jean Fry

Allegany: not represented; **Anne Arundel:** Linda Baker, Al Haury, Dotty Mumford, Paul Speyser, Larry Zoller; **Baltimore:** Mary Chetelat, Helene Gardel; **Caroline:** not represented; **Carroll:** not represented; **Cecil:** not represented; **Frederick:** Marcia Balestri, David Smith, Mike Welch; **Harford:** Jean Fry, Larry Fry, Deborah Stewart, Jean Wheeler; **Howard:** Mary-Jo Betts, Jane Coskren, Karen Darcy, Kevin Heffernan, Kurt Schwarz, Martha Waugh; **Kent:** Walter Ellison; **Montgomery:** Sam Freiberg, Bill Kulp, John Malcolm, Don Simonson, Rick Sussman, Ann Weeks; **Patuxent:** Fred Fallon; **Talbot:** Shirley Bailey; **Tri-County:** Elizabeth Pitney; **Washington:** Janet Shields

President Paul Zucker called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and thanked the Anne Arundel County Chapter for hosting. Larry Zoller gave a brief history of our meeting place, Arlington Echo, which is the outdoor education center for Anne Arundel public schools.

Minutes of the previous meeting were corrected on page 2 under "EFM and audits" where it reads: "EFM requires that all organizations with income over \$100,000 a year to be audited." It is not EFM but the Combined Federal Campaign that requires the audit. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: The books are at the auditor and we should have a draft copy back by the end of the month. A new, less expensive auditor is being used. MOS received

an unrestricted bequest from Genevieve Beck of Washington County for \$500. She also left the Washington County Chapter \$500.

President's Remarks: The meeting dates for upcoming board meetings are December 6, March 6, and June 5. Meeting locations are still needed. The board approved the appointment of Karen Morley as chair of the Long-range Planning Committee. Lydia Schindler and Janet Millenson put out the current issue of the *Yellowthroat*, production of which will continue to be a group effort rather than a one-person job. The board approved Lydia Schindler as Editor of the Yellowthroat. A person is considering taking the Sanctuary chair; we still need a Conference chair and a new Executive Secretary. In the short term, Mary-Jo Betts will answer the MOS 800 number and Janet Shields will handle the mail. The Executive Committee met in August and revised the proposed committee structure in light of the suggestions made at the June board meeting. They also approved the expenditure of up to \$500 for electronic discussion board software (see below). At the ANS annual meeting on September 21, Paul Zucker will present the \$1,500 proceeds from the raffle and silent auction to ANS for their youth program.

Review of Action Items:

1. Candidates are still needed to fill committee openings.
2. Paul Zucker still needs two-paragraph annual summaries from some committees.
3. Chapters should respond to Janet Millenson's offer of customized contact-information stickers for the MOS brochure.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conference: Janet Shields reported that contract negotiations are underway with Washington College for the 2004 conference and should be completed by the end of Septem-

ber. Discussions are being held with the Holiday Inn Select Solomons regarding the 2005 conference. The new conference center at Lexington Park was found to be too small.

Conservation: There is an effort underway to pass legislation guaranteeing Sundays as hunt-free in public parklands during the hunting season. Relevant information should be referred to Maureen Harvey.

Investment: Martha Waugh gave a summary report on MOS funds to board members, and a more detailed report to the chair of each fund's associated committee. The value of our portfolio has gone up somewhat but the income has gone down, reflecting the present economic climate.

Research: Awards were made to two projects: "The Genetic Identity of Maryland's Lesser Snow Goose, a result of inbreeding or hybridization" and "Surveying Lead Levels in the Songbirds of Maryland." In December there will be another call for proposals.

Scholarship: Jean Fry reported that this year there were 12 scholarship applicants and 8 awards, down from last year's 26 applicants and 12 awards. Four reports have been received from scholarship winners with glowing reports of their experiences. Jean will be contacting chapter representatives and science supervisors across the state within the next two weeks asking for applicants for 2004. Jean will be resigning as Scholarship chair at the end of the year and a replacement needs to be found.

Atlas: It's time for reports from the 2003 breeding season to be submitted. Jane Coskren reported that the Atlas will receive \$40,000 from the state of Maryland this year after we document sufficient volunteer hours (2,450 needed; 1,400 hours reported so far this season). Jane and Walter Ellison will visit each county coordinator for a progress report and to see if assistance is needed. Walter reported that Maryland Costal Bays has given us \$5,000.

Awards & Conference Pin Design: John Malcolm asked chapter presidents to solicit their members for designs for the 2004 MOS conference pin contest (deadline January 16). Also, John would be happy to help chapters prepare awards for their local members. There are three types of awards for both the State and Chapter level: "Valued Service Award" for outstanding sustained performance; "Attaboy/Attagirl Award" to recognize hard work, a new job or specific task well done; "Blood, Sweat & Tears Award" for wading in and conquering a one-time gritty, nasty job. Other awards for special occasions include lifetime achievement awards for MOS members and people outside the organization who have contributed significantly to causes important to MOS.

Committee chairs may also make awards. All state-level or committee awards must be approved in advance by the MOS president.

Fall Count Scheduling: The Fall Count has traditionally been held on the third Saturday in September. However, with hunting season underway, some chapters prefer Sunday. Mike Welch reviewed the issues and suggested three options: (1) pick an official date and stick with it; (2) give chapters the choice of holding it on either Saturday or Sunday; or (3) make it a weekend count with each chapter doing both days (would require extra care to avoid double-counting). Chapter presidents are to get feedback from their members, and a decision will be made at the December board meeting.

Electronic Discussion System: Janet Millenson has researched electronic discussion systems. MOS needs a central electronic forum for members and committees to use for communications such as arranging meetings. It's not appropriate to continue using Maryland Osprey for this. A product called Discus Pro seems able to meet MOS needs for a discussion forum. It has a one-time software license cost of \$150. Janet wants suggestions on how the discussion board should be organized and moderated. She will assemble a

group to draft the discussion board structure and will present it at the next board meeting.

New Committee Structure: Paul Zucker announced a correction to the proposed committee structure: the Nest Records *ad hoc* committee belongs in the Birds and Habitat Group. The motion to accept the proposed new committee structure was approved. Paul asked the Long-range Planning Committee and the Bylaws Committee to draft modifications to the bylaws and the manual of operations reflecting this new structure, for discussion at the next board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Birdlife CD: Janet Millenson was thanked for the wonderful job she did producing the *Maryland Birdlife* CD. Janet will look into sending them to Maryland libraries and schools.

Committee Service: Paul Zucker asked chapter presidents to help find members to serve on MOS committees as well as to fill vacant committee chair positions.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

1. A location is needed for the December 6 board meeting.
2. Candidates are urgently needed for the positions of Conference Committee chair, Executive Secretary, and (for next year) Scholarship Committee chair, among others. Chapter presidents should also make an effort to find members to fill out MOS committees.
3. Chapter presidents need to get feedback from their members on the Fall Count scheduling issue so the board can make a decision at the December meeting.
4. The Bylaws and Long-range Planning Committees will present specific proposed changes to the Bylaws and Manual of Operations at the December meeting.
5. Janet Millenson will oversee the organization of the new online MOS discussion board. Interested technically knowledgeable people from all chapters are invited

to get involved and should contact Janet directly.

6. Arrangements should be made to send the *Birdlife* archive CDs to libraries in Maryland.
7. End-of-year reports should be submitted to Paul Zucker.
8. Chapters should seek qualified applicants for summer 2004 scholarship grants.
9. Chapter presidents should ask members to submit designs for the 2004 conference pin contest by January 16.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Series of Birding:

Don Simonson has been captain for five years of the WSB team, the Holy Order of Loggerhead Shrikes, sponsored by the Montgomery Bird Club. They have raised over \$10,000 for Pronatura Veracruz in Mexico. This year they will be representing the state MOS, continuing to raise funds for Pronatura and also for the traditional beneficiary of the MOS state team, the Atlas project. They are confident they will meet or exceed their previous 150 species.

Big Sit: Several MOS chapters plan to participate in the national Big Sit on Sunday, October 12. Last year Big Sits were held at Black Hill, Centennial Park, Assateague, Ft. McHenry and Eastern Neck.

President Paul Zucker adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Janet Shields, Secretary

ATLAS FUNDING

*The Baltimore Chapter donated \$500 and the Kent Chapter donated \$250; this \$750 and any other chapter donations for the year up to a total of \$1,000 would be matched by the Howard Chapter.

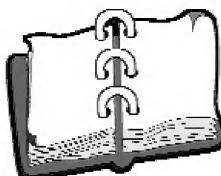
*The Atlas has received grants from the State of Maryland in the amount of \$40,000 and \$20,000; these are to be matched by MOS in volunteer hours.

*Maryland Costal Bays donated \$5,000 in 2003 and is on track to give \$4,000 in 2004.

*The Audubon Naturalist Society has contributed \$1,000.

Other donors, both Chapters as well as the many individuals who have contributed, are listed on the Atlas page on the MOS web site.

—Jane Coskren



MOS Calendar

March-April 2004

Tuesday, March 2

MEETING. **Baltimore.** 7:30 PM. Tuesday Evenings at Sherwood. "The Brown-headed Cowbird, a Conservation Challenge" by *David Curson*.

Wednesday, March 3

H **Baltimore.** 9:30 AM-12 Noon. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. Monthly visit to assist in survey of bird activity. Canceled in bad weather (high wind, fog, rain, snow). Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

MEETING. **Carroll.** Guest speaker *Kevin Omland* will present "Plumage, Evolution, Speciation—with Application to the Baltimore Oriole and its Relatives." 7:30 PM at Senior Center, Stoner Ave, Westminster. For info contact Laura Tarbell, 410-857-1109.

Thursday, March 4

H **Baltimore.** 2-3 PM. "Birds in Art" at Walters Art Museum, 600 North Charles St, Baltimore. Tour the Walters to explore history and symbolism of birds in art—in the Ancient World, Medieval, and Asian art galleries. Free admission. Meet Visitor Services Desk, Centre St entrance. Parking lot at Cathedral & Centre Sts; limited street parking. Contact Leader to confirm: Paula Warner, 410-539-1611, *WarnerPLW@aol.com*.

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Don Bridgell* presents "My Life with Birds," discussion of the importance of birds to people in Somerset County, Tidewater Country and some history of Irish Grove and surrounding area. C. Burr Artz Library in downtown Frederick 7 PM. Contact Marcia Balestri, 301-473-5098, *mebalestri@erols.com*.

ANNUAL LECTURE. **Anne Arundel.** The annual Richard E. Heisse, Jr. wildlife lecture will be presented at 8 PM at Quiet Waters Park, Blue Heron Room, Annapolis. Noted author *Scott Weidensaul* presents "Living on the Wind: The World of Migratory Birds."

Friday, March 5

MEETING. **Harford.** Photographer and Birder *Bob Mumford* will present "Timeless Patterns: The Seasons at Churchill." Dinner 6:15 PM at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD

22 and MD 136, followed by meeting and presentation 7 PM. For info and/or dinner reservations, call Jean Wheeler, 410-879-7424.

H **Montgomery.** McKee-Beshers WMA. Half or full day for wintering land birds, some waterfowl. Part I: Meet 7 AM Riley's Lock parking lot. Bird until 1:30, lunch in Poolesville. Part II: Bird from 3 PM until dark. Meet Potomac River end of Sycamore Landing Rd, move to Hughes Hollow, hopefully finish with woodcock. Bring folding chair if you wish and relax while scoping the river or waiting for woodcock to make their move. Reservations required. Leader: Jim Green, 301-208-2393.

Saturday, March 6

H **Frederick.** Black Hill Regional Park for waterfowl, late winter birds, early spring migrants. Meet Urbana P&R South Lot 7:30 AM. Call Gary Smyle, 301-663-0055, for info.

H **Baltimore.** 8 AM Cromwell Valley Park. Diverse habitat that includes stream, woods and fields. Expect to see variety of resident and wintering birds. Leader: Keith Eric Costley, 410-521-5366, *oriolekec1@aol.com*.

H **Cecil.** Cecil County Waterfowl. Meet 8 AM North East Plaza parking area for half-day. Leader: Chris Starling, 410-287-4223.

H **Harford.** Swan Harbor. This recently-acquired park on Oakington Peninsula offers 469 acres of bayside rolling farmland, undeveloped woodland, and brushy meadows. Possibility for Bald Eagle, Wilson's Snipe, good mix of ducks and wintering sparrows. Meet Park HQ end of entrance road 8 AM. Contact Leader: Lynn Davis, *lynnd@iximd.com*, for more details.

Sunday, March 7

H **Anne Arundel.** Wooten's Landing for woodcock. Meet **4:30 AM** at Parole P&R lot for half day. Leader: Kathie Lambert, 410-867-4056.

H **Baltimore.** 8 AM Loch Raven. Waterfowl and land birds. Possible Bald Eagles and bluebirds. Telescopes useful.

Two-mile level walk. Beginning birders welcome. From Baltimore Beltway Exit 27 north, take Dulaney Valley Rd north several miles, cross large bridge over reservoir, bear right immediately.

Continue first left, Stone Hill Rd. Go up 100 yds, turn around, park on right. All cars need to be on same side. Leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771, *gt5s@bcpl.net*. Snow date: Sunday, March 14.

H **Kent.** Horsehead Wetlands Center. Your MOS membership gets you free admission! Half day. Meet Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown, 7 AM. For info contact Walter Ellison, 410-778-9568, *rossgull@crosslink.net*, or Peter Mann, 410-648-5205, *pmann@epl-inc.com*.

H **Talbot.** Sunday Morning Walk. Easton Wastewater Treatment Plan, in quest of water birds and early migrants. Breakfast Hosts: Lester and Joan Coble. Depart 7 AM Tred Avon Shopping Ctr parking lot, in front of Acme, Easton. Leader: Terry Allen, 410-822-8132.

Tuesday, March 9

MEETING. **Patuxent.** *Mike Callahan* will present program on Barn Owls, their life history, and program to restore their numbers in PG County, complete with live Barn Owl. Meet College Park Airport Annex, Cpl Scott Dr off Paint Branch Pkwy, College Park, 7:30 PM. Contact Fred Fallon for more info, 301-249-1518.

Wednesday, March 10

H **Harford.** Timberdoodle watch. First in a pair of early evening trips designed to take you into mating arena of one of North America's most bizarre birds. Dress warmly and meet team of Powers and Bowers east end Aberdeen Wal-mart parking lot 6 PM. Contact Phil or Debbie at *bowerspub@hotmail.com* or *birdsinsmd@prodigy.net* for more details.

Thursday, March 11

MEETING. **Howard.** "Winter Hummingbirds in the Mid-Atlantic Region" by *Mary Gustafson*, Washington area bander and researcher. Longfellow Elem School, 5470 Hesperus Dr, Columbia. Hospitality and bookstore 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM. For further info call Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643.

H indicates Field Trips

MEETING. **Talbot.** Alan Girard, project manager, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Salisbury Office, presents "State of the Bay." The Chesapeake Bay is one of the most productive estuaries on earth, supporting 3,600 species of plants and animals and over 300 species of fish. Yet despite its incredible diversity of wildlife, increasingly intensive land use and population growth in the Bay watershed are reducing the capacity of the Chesapeake to sustain aquatic life. What can you do? Meet 7:30 PM, basement Suntrust Bank, corner Harrison & Goldsborough, Easton.

Saturday, March 13

Frederick. Piney Run, Carroll County. For late winter waterfowl and really early spring migrants. Contact Marcia Balestri, 301-473-5098, for info.

Tri-County. Southern Dorchester County for winter raptors and possibly Golden Eagle. For info contact Sam Dyke, 410-742-5497. Meet Asbury UMC (north parking lot), Salisbury 7:30 AM, bring lunch/snack/drink.

Patuxent. Patuxent Area ponds, Jug Bay for waterfowl. Meet Bowie P&R 7:30 AM for half day. Leader: Fred Fallon, 301-249-1518.

Montgomery. Jug Bay. Half day. Joint trip with ANS. Possible Rusty Blackbirds, migrating Wilson's Snipe, courtship display of Osprey. Meet 8 AM. Call leader for details and driving instructions. Check ANS newsletter for more info. Reservations required. Leader: John Bjerke, 301-963-8528.

Sunday, March 14

Harford. Loch Raven Reservoir. Join Dave Larkin and Phil Powers to explore this magnet location for pine-loving songbirds and waterfowl. Ring-necked Duck, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Fox Sparrow likely. Meet leaders 7:30 AM at MD 152 and MD 147 P&R. Contact Dave, dlarkin@towson.edu for details.

Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Bay Hundred area including Claiborne and Wades Point Inn. No breakfast. Depart 7 AM Tred Avon Shopping Ctr parking lot, in front of Acme, Easton. Leader: Les Roslund, 410-763-8169, lroslund@bluecrab.org.

Howard. Centennial Park spring walk. Easy walk on paved path around lake. Waterfowl our goal, prime time for Tundra Swans. Facilities available. Meet

west end parking lot 8 AM, 3 hours. Leader: Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643.

Howard. Woodcock Walk at MPEA. Evening—2 hours. Limit 15. Leader: Sue Muller, 301-498-8462, sonicsue@boo.net, to reserve and for start time, meeting place, other info. Easy walk into Middle Patuxent Environmental Area to listen for displaying woodcock. Bring flashlight and wear dark clothes. No facilities.

Tuesday, March 16

MEETING. **Allegany.** "The Elusive Henslow's Sparrow" by Connie Skipper. Meet Allegany Co Public Library, 65 E. Main St, Frostburg, 7 PM. Contact Barbara Gaffney, 301-895-4646, for more info.

Wednesday, March 17

Washington. "Dinner at 6, Woodcocks at 8." Meet 6 PM Windy Hill Restaurant in Clear Spring for dinner. Afterwards we'll travel to Indian Springs WMA and gather in parking lot 8 PM. Contact Dave Weesner, 301-432-7718, for info.

MEETING. **Cecil.** "The Bird Song Grammies" by Jeffrey Gordon. 7 PM Elkton High School Media Center, Elkton, MD. Raffle, refreshments. Info: Rick Lee, 410-287-0415.

Harford. Timberdoodle watch. Second early evening trip of a pair, designed to take you into mating arena of one of North America's most bizarre birds. Dress warmly and meet team of Powers and Bowers east end Aberdeen Wal-mart parking lot at 6 PM. Contact Phil or Debbie at bowerspub@hotmail.com or birdsinmd@prodigy.net for more details.

Thursday, March 18

MEETING. **Caroline.** "Pacific Island Wildlife: A Look at Coral Atolls from the Bottom Up," by Don Meritt. 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

Friday, March 19

ANNUAL SOCIAL. **Montgomery.** Woodend/ANS HQ, 8940 Jones Mill Rd, Chevy Chase. 6:30 PM.

Saturday, March 20

Frederick. Conowingo Dam. Pat Caro will take us to Conowingo to look for gulls, eagles, and wintering waterfowl. For info call Pat, 301-668-7072.

Baltimore. 8 AM to 12 Noon. Saturday Walks at Fort McHenry. Canceled if raining. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

Cecil. Blackwater NWR & Beyond. Full day. Meet Big Elk Mall Dunkin' Donuts parking area 6 AM. Bring lunch. Leader: Sean McCandless, 410-392-3407.

Anne Arundel. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center for woodland birds and waterfowl. Meet 8 AM Parole P&R lot for half day. Leader: Paul Fofonoff, 410-867-7971.

Sunday, March 21

Baltimore. 8:30 AM. Cylburn Arboretum Self-guided Walk. First in series of spring walks. Join Baltimore Bird Club members at Mansion's front porch Sunday mornings for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find variety of migrant and local birds. Beginning birders welcome. No designated leader. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834, ilenel@juno.com

Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. JE duPont Audubon Sanctuary for water, grassland and forest departures and arrivals. No breakfast. Depart 7 AM St. Michaels Village Shopping Ctr parking lot, adjacent Talbot Bank, St. Michaels. Leader: Amy Bourque, 410-745-9283, abourque@audubon.org

Howard. Centennial Park spring walk. Easy walk on paved path around lake. Migrants should start to appear. Early phoebes, towhees, Purple Martins possible. Facilities available. Meet west end parking lot 8 AM, 3 hours. Leader: Ralph Cullison, 410-442-2181.

Monday, March 22

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING. **Tri-County.** Wicomico Presbyterian Church, 6 PM. Speaker Bob Ringler on "Colorado Grouse."

Tuesday, March 23

MEETING. **Washington.** Narrated slide show based on book, *Hollows, Peepers and Highlands: An Appalachian Mountain Ecology*, will be presented by Canaan Valley Institute. Meet Mt. Aetna Camp & Retreat 7:30 PM. Call Anna Hutzell, 301-797-8454, for further info.

MOS Calendar (continued from page 11)**Thursday, March 25**

Howard. Weekday Walk at Lake Elkhorn. Easy walk on paved path around lake. Migrant waterbirds, herons, passerines expected. No facilities. Meet Broken Land Pkwy lot 8 AM. Leader: Emy Holdridge, 410-964-0196.

Saturday, March 27

Kent. Owl Prowl. This field trip will happen at night, when the owls are about. Time and place TBA. Info: Walter Ellison, 410-778-9568, rossgull@crosslink.net, or Peter Mann, 410-648-5205, pmann@epl-inc.com.

Howard. Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Moderate to difficult hike through MPEA. Woodlands, fields and streams provide variety of habitat. Fox Sparrow, Pine Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Chipping Sparrow likely. No facilities. Meet Trotter Rd parking lot 8 AM for half day. Leaders: Ron & Susan Polniaszek, 410-531-6658.

Sunday, March 28

Baltimore. 8:30 AM. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Second in series of spring walks. See March 21.

Harford. Nottingham County Park. Similar to Soldiers Delight, the serpentine soils of this Chester Co, PA, park lend the site to prairie/savannah-like conditions. Great opportunity to find winter songbirds, sparrows and pine-loving birds. Meet 7 AM Conowingo Visitors Center Rte 1. Contact Leader Mark Johnson, Mark.Johnson@apg.amedd.army.mil, for more info.

Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Ferry Neck in quest of early migrants. Breakfast Hosts: Myra & Bill Novak. Depart 7 AM St. Michaels Village Shopping Ctr parking lot, adjacent Talbot Bank, St. Michaels. Leader: Les Coble, 410-820-6165.

Howard. Centennial Spring Walk. Easy walk on paved path around lake. Early migrants increasing, possible night-heron, gulls and courting hawks. Facilities available. Meet west end parking lot 8 AM for 3 hours. Leaders: Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy.

Tuesday, March 30

Baltimore. 9 AM Cylburn Arboretum walk. Series of weekly walks to follow progress of migration. Two/three hours and miles of walking. Early departure optional. Spring migrant songbirds. Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night-Herons possible. For detailed directions, contact leader. Follow drive to circle in front of Mansion bldg, park, and meet at front porch. Leader: Adelaide Rackemann 410-823-4709.

Wednesday, March 31

Baltimore. 9:30 AM Loudon Park Cemetery, 3801 Frederick Ave. Second in series of three cemetery walks (next: June 18). Just past Mt. St. Joseph High School, turn right into cemetery's main entrance and gather there. For detailed directions, contact leader. Leader: Joy Wheeler, 410-825-1204.

Thursday, April 1

MEETING. *Frederick.* *Dave Smith* will discuss "Birding Below the 28th Parallel: Florida's Most Wanted," a review of where we are going on our Florida trip and what we will see. A must for those going on the trip, but also great for those who will miss it this time and will be going in the future. Meet C. Burr Artz Library downtown Frederick 7 PM. Contact Marcia Balestri, 301-473-5098 mebalestri@erols.com.

Baltimore. 10 AM-12 Noon. Cylburn Nature Walk. Co-sponsored with Cylburn Arboretum Association. First in a series of five walks Thursdays in April. Watch spring progress with delightful variety of flowers and birds in Cylburn's gardens & urban forest. Assistance by volunteers from Cylburn Arboretum Association. Leader: Dwight Johnson, 410-366-7239.

Friday, April 2

MEETING. *Anne Arundel.* 8 PM at DNR Conference Rm, Tawes Bldg, Annapolis. *Dr. Bruce Beehler* presents "New Guinea and its Birds of Paradise." Hosts: Leo Weigant & Al Haury.

Saturday, April 3

Allegany. Garrett County Ponds. Call Roy Brown, 301-724-7769, for more info and to reserve spot on this trip. Meet Parkside School in LaVale 9 AM and pack lunch for impromptu picnic at New Germany State Park.

Frederick. Centennial Park.

Beth Zang and Linda Keller will take us to Centennial Park for early migrants and late lingering waterfowl. Meet at Baker Park 6:30 AM. Call Beth, 301-371-7936, or Linda, 301-834-6977, for info.

Cecil. Mt. Harmon Plantation & Grove Neck Sanctuary. Full day. Meet 8 AM Big Elk Mall Dunkin Donuts parking area. Bring lunch. Leader: Parke John, 410-287-6037.

Kent. Ocean City for early migrants, late waterfowl. Meet Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown, 7 AM for full day. For more info contact Walter Ellison, 410-778-9568, rossgull@crosslink.net, or Peter Mann, 410-648-5205, pmann@epl-inc.com. Bring lunch.

Talbot. Special Saturday Walk. Trappe Pond State Park, DE, in quest of Pileated Woodpecker, thrush and northernmost stand of Bald Cypress in the US. Bring lunch. Depart 7 AM Tred Avon Shopping Ctr parking lot, front of Acme, Easton. Leader: Shirley Bailey, 410-9430-8925, sjbbirds@dmv.com.

Sunday, April 4

Baltimore. 8:30 AM. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Third in series of spring walks. See March 21.

Harford. Harford Glen. Let leader Phil Powers guide you on a trip through marshes, fields, and forests of this perennial club favorite. Always a productive location. Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Wilson's Snipe, and kinglets likely with Palm Warbler a distinct possibility. Meet at mansion house 8 AM. Contact Phil, birdsinmd@prodigy.net, for more info.

Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Horn Point for water and land birds. Local restaurant for breakfast. Depart 7 AM Tred Avon Shopping Ctr parking lot, front of Acme, Easton. Leader: Shirley Bailey, 410-9430-8925, sjbbirds@dmv.com.

Howard. Centennial Spring Walk. Easy walk on paved path around lake. Loons, grebes and mergansers possible on lake. Bonaparte's Gulls and Caspian Terns may fly over. Swallows should be abundant. Facilities available. Meet west end parking lot 8 AM for 3 hours. Leader: Bonnie Ott, 410-461-3361.

Tuesday, April 6

H Baltimore. 9 AM. Cromwell Valley Park. Series of weekly walks to follow progress of migration. Two/three hours and miles of walking. Early departure optional. Spring migrant songbirds. Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night-Herons possible. For detailed directions, contact leader. Drive down long entrance driveway, cross stream, park in lot on left near info kiosk. Leader: Adelaide Rackemann, 410-823-4709.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** 7:30 PM. Tuesday Evenings at Sherwood. "From Kruger to the Cape—Our South Africa Adventure" by *Gail Mackiernan*.

Wednesday, April 7

H Baltimore. 9:30 AM-12 Noon. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. Canceled in bad weather (high wind, fog, rain, snow). Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

H Baltimore. 6-8 PM. Fort McHenry Wednesday Evenings. Meet outside Fort's gate (Fort Ave & Wallace St.). Canceled if raining. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

MEETING. **Carroll.** Club member *Dave Harvey* will present "A-Birding We Will Go...A-Birding We Will Go...Through the Andes." 7:30 PM at Senior Center, Stoner Ave, Westminster. For more info contact Laura Tarbell, 410-857-1109.

Thursday, April 8

H Baltimore. 10 AM-12 Noon. Cylburn Nature Walk. Second in a series of five walks Thursdays in April. See April 1.

MEETING. **Talbot.** *William Boicourt*, Horn Point Environmental Lab, presents "Hurricanes." Meet 7:30 PM, basement of Suntrust Bank, corner Harrison & Goldsborough, Easton.

Saturday, April 10

H Montgomery. Bird Pedal. Half day. Leisurely ride with frequent stops for birding along Mount Vernon Trail beside Potomac River in VA. Start Daingerfield Island parking lot next to sailing marina, cycle through Alexandria on designated trail-streets, end with birding at Dyke Marsh. 10 miles round trip on smooth level surfaces. Coffee break on return at Schuman's Bakery. Reservations required. Leader: David Winer, 301-229-8963.

H Montgomery. Banshee Reeks, Loudoun Co, VA. Three-quarters day. Meet 8 AM to join regularly scheduled Friends of Banshee Reeks & Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy walk. Trip may continue to other sites at option of leader and participants. For detailed directions, contact leader. Reservations required. Leader: Joe Coleman, 540-554-2542, jandkcoleman@erols.com

Sunday, April 11

H Talbot. Easter Sunday Morning Walk. Location TBA. No breakfast. Depart 7 AM St. Michaels Village Shopping Ctr parking lot, adjacent Talbot Bank. St. Michaels. Leader: Jan Reese, 410-745-2875.

H Baltimore. 8:30 AM. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Fourth in series of spring walks. See March 21.

Sunday, April 11–Saturday, April 17

FLORIDA TRIP. **Frederick.** Dave Smith has organized a great trip to Florida to look for exciting Florida specialties such as Mangrove Cuckoo, Snail and Swallow-tailed Kites, Black-whiskered Vireo, Spot-breasted Oriole, many others. Space limited, call Dave, 410-549-7082, for info and reservations. Prior to Florida Trip, three day boat trip to Dry Tortugas (April 8-11). Marcia Balestri, 301-473-5098, mebalestri@erols.com has info, but you are responsible for your own arrangements.

Tuesday, April 13

H Baltimore. 8 AM. Cromwell Valley Park. Series of weekly walks to follow progress of migration. See April 6. Leader: Matilda Weiss, 410-337-2732.

MEETING. **Allegany.** *Liz McDowell* will present "Bats, Bugs and Boxes." Meet Allegany Co. Public Library, 65 E. Main St, Frostburg, 7 PM. Contact Barbara Gaffney, 301-895-4646, for more info.

MEETING. **Patuxent.** *Dave Mozurkewich* will lead a round-table discussion on birding optics including digiscoping. Equipment on hand for demo. Meet College Park Airport Annex, Cpl Scott Dr off Paint Branch Pkwy, College Park, 7:30 PM. Contact Fred Fallon for info, 301-249-1518.

Wednesday, April 14

H Baltimore. 6-8 PM. Fort McHenry Wednesday Evenings. Meet outside

Fort's gate (Fort Ave & Wallace St). Canceled if raining. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

Thursday, April 15

H Baltimore. 10 AM-Noon. Cylburn Nature Walk. Third in a series of walks Thursdays in April. See April 1.

H Harford. Mariner Point Park. Join Tom Congersky on visit to this favored club destination. Nestled between Gunpowder Marsh and slow waters of Foster Branch, varied habitats and paved trails of this park make for good birding and comfortable walk. Meet near pavilion at back parking lot 7:30 AM. Contact Tom, jnjtcon@erols.com, for details.

MEETING. **Caroline.** "Bats" by *Dana Limpert*. 7:30 PM. Caroline Co Public Library, 100 Market St., Denton.

MEETING. **Howard.** NOTE CHANGE TO THIRD THURSDAY. "Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice" by *Greg Kearns*, photographer and naturalist at Patuxent River Park. Longfellow Elem School, 5470 Hesperus Dr, Columbia. Hospitality and bookstore 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM. For further info call Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643.

Saturday, April 17

H Baltimore. 8 AM-Noon. Saturday Walks at Fort McHenry. Canceled if raining. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

H Baltimore. 9 AM. Southwest Area Park and Cherry Hill. Pheasants, swallows, terns, waterthrush, Osprey are a few of the expected birds on this walk. For detailed directions, contact leader. Parking area next to tennis courts. Leader: Dave Walbeck, 410-757-0112, dwalbeck@mde.state.md.us

H Washington. ThorpeWood. Tour this beautiful and secluded environmental education and retreat center and explore surrounding mountainside. Meet 8:15 AM Rte 66 P&R. Leader: Shirley Ford, 301-241-3020.

H Anne Arundel. Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington, DC. Walk for spring migrants. Meet 7 AM Parole P&R lot for half day. Leader: John Hubbell. For info, call George Thomas, 410-647-5082.

MOS Calendar (continued from page 13)

Cecil. Horsehead Wetlands Sanctuary. Half day for waterfowl and spring migrants. Meet 7 AM Big Elk Mall Dunkin Donuts parking area. Leaders: Rick & Candi Lee, 410-287-0415.

Kent. Millington area. Early migrants—warblers and sparrows good possibilities. Meet Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown, 7 AM for half day. For more info contact Walter Ellison, 410-778-9568, rossgull@crosslink.net, or Peter Mann, 410-648-5205, pmann@epl-inc.com.

Tri-County. Nassawango Creek. Enjoy early migrant vireos and warblers before trees leaf out. Expect Red-shouldered Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker and possibly Barred Owl on this half-day trip. Leader: Betty Pitney, 410-543-1843. Meet Asbury UMC (north parking lot), Salisbury, 7:30 AM, bring lunch/snack/drink.

Patuxent. Governor Bridge Park, Gov. Bridge Rd, Bowie (off Rte 301). Meet at gate 7:30 AM, leave 10:30. No reservations required.

Howard. Beginner's Bird Walk at Lake Elkhorn. Easy walk on paved path around lake. Focus on beginning birding skills. Woodlands, wetlands and water provide great variety of birds. No facilities. Meet Broken Land Pkwy lot 8:30 AM for 2 hours. Leader: Tom Miller, 410-781-4268.

Sunday, April 18

Baltimore. 8:30 AM. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Fifth in a series of spring walks. See March 21.

Harford. Jerusalem Mill. Take a leisurely stroll around this historic area and along Little Gunpowder River from Mill to Jericho Covered Bridge. Meet Phil Powers in hopes of finding Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Palm Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush. Meet at mill (off Jerusalem Rd) 7 A.M. Contact Phil, birdsinmd@prodigy.net, for details.

Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Pickering Creek Audubon Center in quest of woodpeckers and freshwater waterfowl. Breakfast Hosts: Les & Carolyn Roslund. Depart 7 AM Tred Avon Shopping Ctr parking lot, front of Acme, Easton. Leaders: Mark & Susanna Scallion, 410-310-2385.

Tuesday, April 20

Baltimore. 8 AM. Cromwell Valley Park. Series of weekly walks to follow progress of migration. See April 6. Leader: Matilda Weiss, 410-337-2732.

Wednesday, April 21

Baltimore. 6-8 PM. Fort McHenry Wednesday Evenings. Meet outside Fort's gate (Fort Ave & Wallace St). Canceled if raining. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

MEETING. *Montgomery.* *Luther Goldman* spent much of his illustrious NWR career in Texas photographing birds and wildlife. Using his slides, he will share some of his experiences in "Fifty Years of Texas Birds." 7:30 PM Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info call Don Messersmith, 301-593-5942.

Howard. Weekday Walk at Wilde Lake. Easy walk on paved path along lakeside and wooded stream. Kinglets, gnatcatchers and early warblers expected. No facilities. Meet at boat dock 8 AM for 2 hours. Leader: Jeff Friedhoffer, 410-997-5366.

Thursday, April 22

Baltimore. 10 AM-12 Noon. Cylburn Nature Walk. Fourth in a series of five walks Thursdays in April. See April 1.

Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park for early migrants. Meet 7 AM Jones Station P&R lot in Severna Park for half day. Leader: Linda Baker, 410-987-9354.

Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, DC. Half day for migrant warblers, vireos, etc. Meet 7 AM at Picnic Area #18, half mile below Nature Center on Ridge Rd. Call leader for more info or specific directions. Reservations required. Leader: Rob Hilton, 301-587-6136.

Saturday, April 24

WORK DAY. *Allegany.* Carey Run Sanctuary. 8 AM until ?? Bring picks and shovels (actually cleaning supplies and yard tools like rakes, shovels and chainsaws will be useful) to Carey Run Sanctuary in Finzel. Bring place setting and covered dish to share for lunch. Beverages supplied. Contact Barbara Gaffney, 301-895-4646, for more info and directions.

 indicates Field Trips

EARTH DAY BIG SIT. *Frederick.* A new event for us; a "fun" d-raising event to raise money for MD/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Contact Linda Keller, 301-834-6977, or Marcia Balestri, 301-473-5098, for further info.

Baltimore. 7:30 AM. Huntley Meadows. Trip to northern Virginia freshwater marsh with boardwalk trail for resident wildlife and spring migrants. Coots, Canada Geese on nests, turtles, water snakes and other water wildlife allowing close approach and good views. American Bittern, Sora both possible. Two/three hour (and mile) level walk on paved paths and boardwalks. Leader: Pete Webb, 410-486-1217, pwebb@bcpl.net.

Baltimore. 8 AM. Breakfast with the Birds at Cylburn. Co-hosted by Cylburn Arboretum Association. Breakfast 8 AM, fee \$5. Birding (no fee) starts 8:30 AM. For reservations call 410-367-2217.

Cecil. Conowingo for Wildflowers & Birds. Half day. Meet 8 AM Fisherman's Parking Lot below Conowingo Dam. Leader: Ken Drier, 410-658-9955.

COUNT THOSE GEESE!

The **USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center** is seeking volunteers to assist with a Canada Goose count along the Anacostia River on April 10, July 17, and September 11. This is in response to the large population of geese in the area, and the devastation of a newly reconstructed marsh at Kingman Lake, NE DC. The counts, organized by the Anacostia Watershed Society, D.C. Fisheries, NPS, and USGS, will take place on Saturday mornings from about 9 to 11. Observers will be stationed at fixed points along the river, from Bladensburg, Prince George's County, down to around the Naval Yard in the District of Columbia. Volunteers can sign up for one or all counts.

Mary M. Paul
USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
301-497-5725

H Harford. Susquehanna State Park. Enjoy early spring wildflowers and migrant songbirds, including Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Meet Leader Rick Cheicante at Rock Run Mill 7 AM for best looks at songbirds. Late risers and flower peepers can meet there 8:30 AM for birding/natural history walk. For further info, contact RickCheicante@cs.com.

H Kent. Eastern Neck NWR. Beginner's Bird Walk designed especially for new birders. All welcome. Meet Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown, 9 AM for 2 hours. For more info contact Walter Ellison, 410-778-9568, rossgull@crosslink.net, or Peter Mann, 410-648-5205, pmann@epl-inc.com.

H Howard. Earth Day Extravaganza at Middle Patuxent Environmental. Half or full day. Meet at gravel lot off Trotter Rd. Morning bird walk 8:30 AM. Easy walking along field edges and woodlands to search for migrants. Bring picnic basket or visit nearly Clarksville Crossing food establishments for lunch. Wildflower and Butterfly Walk 1-3 PM. Easy hike in search of spring wildflowers and early butterflies. Paths may be muddy. No facilities. Leaders: Bob Solem, 301-725-5037, and Dick Smith, 410-997-7439.

H Montgomery. Charles County. Full day. Limit: 6. Reservations required. Scouting trip for planned big day. 100+ total species possible. Call or email leader for details. Meet 6 AM at leader's house for possible Whip-poorwill. Leader: George Jett, 301-843-3524, gmjett@comcast.net.

H EARTH DAY BIG SIT. Montgomery. 6 AM till ?? Black Hill RP. An Atlas fund-raiser. For info, or to pledge, contact Rick Sussman, 301-774-1185, warblerick@aol.com.

Sunday, April 25

H Baltimore. 7:30 AM. Patapsco Valley SP—Granite Area. Expect to observe variety of birds with up to 16 species of warblers. Boots recommended; part of hiking loop may be muddy. Cross bridge and park just beyond RR tracks. For detailed directions, contact Leader: Keith Eric Costley, 410-521-5366, oriolekec@aol.com

H Baltimore. 8:30 AM. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. One in a series of spring walks. See March 21.

H Baltimore. 1-3 PM. The Butterflies of Soldiers Delight. Meet at Nature Center for 20-minute slide show on butterflies of Soldiers Delight Serpentine Barrens. Then join Dick Smith as he searches out these beautiful insects and gives us an opportunity to see them up close and personal. Canceled if raining. CALL OR EMAIL TO CONFIRM DATE. Coordinator: Gail Frantz, 410-833-7135, guineabird@aol.com.

H Baltimore. 7:15 PM. Chimney Swifts in Hampden. Come 1 hour earlier if weather is cloudy or gray as Swifts enter chimney earlier. Last year more than 1,000 Swifts entered the chimneys. Canceled if raining. Leaders: Alice Nelson, alice.display@verizon.net, and Carol Schreter, 410-664-5151.

H Harford. Eden Mill. This trip to upper Deer Creek combines bird-banding demonstration by Mark Johnson and bird walk with leader Debby Bowers. Species list will likely include Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, good mix of early warblers. Meet at Mill House 7 AM. Contact Debby, bowerspub@hotmail.com, for more details.

H Carroll. Birdwalk at McKeldin (part of Patapsco SP). Variety of spring warblers. Moderate to rough terrain. Meet 7:30 AM in parking lot on west side of Marriottsville Rd, just south of bridge over Patapsco River (by RR tracks), Henryton. For more info contact Leader: Bob Ringler, 410-549-6031.

H Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Wye Island for land and water birds. Don't miss the giant holly. No breakfast. Depart 7 AM Tred Avon Shopping Ctr parking lot, in front of Acme, Easton. Leader: Danny Poet, 410-827-8651, danny.poet@hotmail.com.

H Howard. Signs of Spring at Bon Secours. Easy walking through the grounds of this lovely spiritual center. Woodlands and fields with great view of sky for fly-overs. Facilities available. Meet Visitor's parking lot 8:30 AM for 2 hours. Leaders: Michele Wright, 410-465-6057 and Eva Sunell, 410-995-0029.

H Montgomery. Triadelphia Lake Area. Half day for migrants in a variety of habitats. Start time 7 AM. Call leader for meeting place and directions.

Limit: 9. Reservations required. Leader: Rick Sussman, 301-774-1185.

Monday, April 26

MEETING. Tri-County. "Shorebird Adventures" by Donald Broderick. 7 PM at Asbury UMC, Salisbury (Fox Room, south entrance).

Tuesday, April 27

H Baltimore. 8 AM. Cromwell Valley Park. Series of weekly walks to follow progress of migration. See April 6. Leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771, gt5s@bcp1.net.

MEETING. Washington. See Jacques Perrin's documentary, *Winged Migration*. Meet Mt. Aetna Camp & Retreat 7:30 PM. Call Anna Hutzell, 301-797-8454, for info.

Wednesday, April 28

H Baltimore. 6-8 PM. Fort McHenry Wednesday Evenings. Meet outside Fort's gate (Fort Ave & Wallace St). Canceled if raining. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

Thursday, April 29

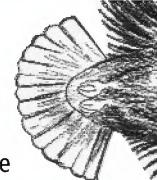
H Baltimore. 10 AM-Noon. Cylburn Nature Walk. Last of a series of five walks Thursdays in April. See April 1.

Friday, April 30

H Montgomery. Pennyfield Lock. Half day for migrant and nesting land birds, emphasis on birding by ear. Meet Pennyfield Lock 7 AM. Make reservations (required) with either leader. Leaders: Cyndie Looper, 301-530-8226, or Ann Lucy, 301-229-8810.

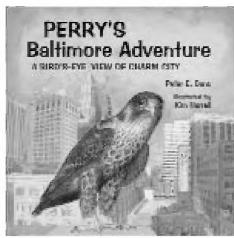
Telling Tales

When birders—especially owlers—go shopping, they may face/create some unusual situations, as we learn on MDOsprey. Rick Sussman of the Montgomery Bird Club, holiday shopping at the mall with his wife, reached into his pocket for a tissue only to find mouse bones and owl pellets instead. Arlene Ripley of Calvert County was waiting in line to make a purchase; as she was fumbling around in her purse, an Eastern Screech Owl began loudly calling from within!



BOOK REVIEW

Perry's Baltimore Adventure: A Bird's-Eye View of Charm City by Peter E. Dans



Illustrated by Kim Harrell
Tidewater Publishers
Centreville, MD, 2003

Peter Dans and his family arrived in Baltimore in 1978, about the same time that a Peregrine Falcon took up residence at a downtown high-rise,

the USF&G building. The first falcon, a female named Scarlett, was part of a reintroduction program sponsored by the Peregrine Fund of Cornell University. For four years, the Fund tried to provide suitable mates; when those efforts did not succeed, they placed fertile eggs on Scarlett's 33rd-floor window ledge "scrape." (The undertaking benefited greatly from the presence, on the USF&G staff, of ex-Smithsonian ornithologist John Barber.) Scarlett raised 17 foster chicks, or "eyases," before mating successfully with a wild Peregrine Falcon, who became known as Beauregard, and hatching the first four eyases of her own.

Peter, a member of the Baltimore Bird Club (BBC) as well as the medical faculty at Johns Hopkins, followed the saga of Scarlett as chronicled in Baltimore newspapers and television with interest—as did much of the city. Reading aloud to his own four youngsters sparked the idea of writing a children's book about the Baltimore peregrine. He sketched an outline for the book in 1982, but the project got put on the back burner—to be revived with the birth of his first grandchild in 2000.

Peter sought the help of the BBC's Joy Wheeler in researching the newspaper files at Cylburn's library, and had a manuscript ready in April 2001. Tidewater Publishers lined up Kim Harrell to illustrate the story, and *Perry's Baltimore Adventure: A Bird's-Eye View of Charm City*

appeared in the spring of 2003. The story begins with the arrival of Scarlett and her successful mating with Beauregard, then moves on to one of the chicks, the adventuresome Perry. Beauregard takes Perry on an aerial tour of Baltimore, aka Charm City, visiting familiar Baltimore attractions and touching on an assortment of Baltimore residents, both famous and not-so-famous.

Since the book came out, Peter has made a presentation to the BBC, enjoyed a well-attended signing at a children's book shop, been interviewed by press and television. He has also made several presentations to youngsters. Twice he has spoken to inner city school groups of 125 each at the Pratt Library, joined by staff from the Baltimore Zoo, who brought a Peregrine Falcon that had lost one wing and a kestrel. "I also showed a short film clip of the 2003 crop of four eyases when they were being banded," Peter says. "The children loved it."

He also spoke at a private school to 250 girls. One asked, "What happened to Perry's three sisters?" "Funny you should ask," I said, "but as soon as I leave, I'm going to finish up a manuscript where they are featured."

"My hope is that the book gives children a deeper appreciation of Baltimore, its history, sights, and diverse peoples, and makes them want to visit the places Perry enjoys seeing," Peter says. "I also hope it helps kindle their fascination with wildlife and the very peaceful and salutary hobby of bird-watching, even in the city."

One final note from Peter: Peregrine Falcons—successors to Scarlett and Beauregard—will be returning in late April or early May and should be there into June. The peregrine's high-rise at Pratt and Light Streets, now occupied by Legg-Mason, has a video camera trained on the nest, with images being transmitted to the building's lobby. When the birds are in residence, they can be viewed Monday through Friday 9-5.

LAST CALL

NOMINATIONS are being sought for Vice President and Treasurer. If you are interested in running for office, or if you have recommendations for these posts, get in touch with a member of the

Nominating Committee: Al Haury, Chair (Anne Arundel; 410-923-0881, cactuswren@erols.com); Mike Bowen (Montgomery; 301-530-5764, dhmbowen@yahoo.com); Mary-Jo Betts (Howard; 301-596-5859, Mbetts1030@aol.com); Mary Byers (Baltimore; 410-686-7294, baypuffin@hotmail.com); and Peter Mann (Kent; 410-648-5205, pmann@epl-inc.com).

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